

20 MENSO NI ONEGAI!

MAN OF MANY FACES

2



VIZSELECT



Happy Come On!

PRESENTED BY CLAMP

MAN OF MANY FACES

By CLAMP
Volume 2

Man of Many Faces Vol. 2

Created by CLAMP

Translator – Ikoi Hiroe

English Adaption – Jamie S. Rich

Copy Editor – Carol Fox

Retouch and Lettering – James Lee

Cover Layout – Raymond Makowski

Editor – Jake Forbes

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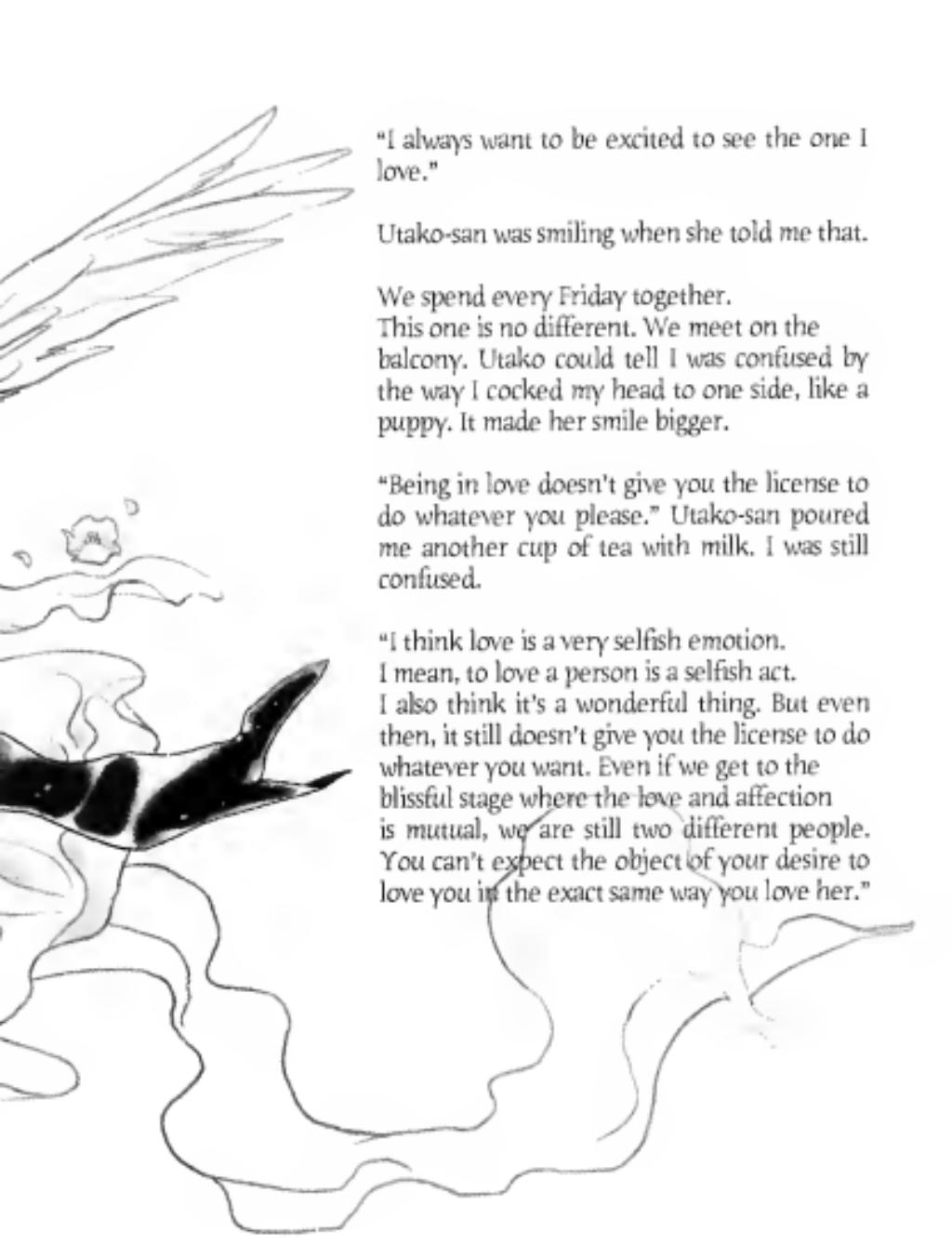
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"I always want to be excited to see the one I love."

Utako-san was smiling when she told me that.

We spend every Friday together. This one is no different. We meet on the balcony. Utako could tell I was confused by the way I cocked my head to one side, like a puppy. It made her smile bigger.

"Being in love doesn't give you the license to do whatever you please." Utako-san poured me another cup of tea with milk. I was still confused.

"I think love is a very selfish emotion. I mean, to love a person is a selfish act. I also think it's a wonderful thing. But even then, it still doesn't give you the license to do whatever you want. Even if we get to the blissful stage where the love and affection is mutual, we are still two different people. You can't expect the object of your desire to love you in the exact same way you love her."





"I think...

"...romantic love will blossom
when you and I accept each other
as strangers. Different people,
different hearts.

Because we love one another,
we don't want to lose that excitement.



"I want to remember the thrill that I felt when we first met. You can't take love for granted. If you love someone, you need to discover the boundaries of your relationship in order to make it last."



I gave Utako-san my full attention.

Ironically, since we are two different people, I'll never be able to completely understand her point—which is part of her point, as well. Nevertheless, the things she said about the excitement of seeing your sweetheart made a lot of sense to me.

When I see her beautiful smile, I feel a rush of emotion. It's so great, I worry that my heart will beat so loud that she'll hear it.



Table of Contents

- | | |
|---|-----|
| EVENT 7
FATHER'S PRESENT..... | 11 |
| EVENT 8
CHRISTMAS STAR..... | 46 |
| EVENT 9
LIKE OR DISLIKE..... | 92 |
| EVENT 10
PROPOSAL..... | 127 |
| EVENT 11
NEWLY MARRIED..... | 149 |

WE WANT IT!!



GAHH!



FATHER'S PRESENT

プレゼント







THERE'S A NEW ANTIQUE COLLECTION ON EXHIBIT AT THE ICHIGAYA NEWTYPE MUSEUM. IT'S FULL OF WONDERFUL TREASURES.



HE
BLEW THE
GLASS AND
FASHIONED
IT JUST
FOR US.

THAT
BOWL
WAS
MADE BY
YOUR
FATHER.

WHAAAT?!

IT
SAYS SO
RIGHT
HERE...

THAT'S
A LIE. IT
WAS MADE
BY GARE.

HE VERIFIED
THAT ALL
THE ITEMS ON
EXHIBIT WERE
AUTHENTIC
EMILE GARE
CREATIONS—
INCLUDING
THE GLASS
BOWL.

THIS
ARTICLE
SAYS AN
EXPERT
CHECKED
THE PIECES
OUT.

WHAT
ARE
YOU
TALKING
ABOUT?

WELL,
YOUR
FATHER
WAS A
MAN OF
VARIED
TALENTS.

THEY LIE!
YOUR FATHER MADE
THAT BOWL!

BUT
HOW-?

THAT
MAN
COULD
DO
ANY-
THING.

IT WAS
AN EXACT
REPLICA
OF A BOWL
HE SAW IN
A BOOK.

YOUR
FATHER
CRAFTED THAT
BOWL FOR US
TO SERVE
CHILLED
NOODLES IN.

A
NOODLE
DISH...?

BRIMMING WITH

SELF-
CONFIDENCE



...HAD HIM
EXCHANGE--?

HA...

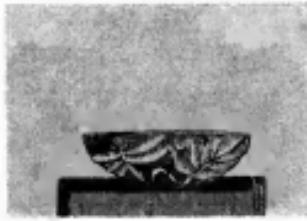
HE CREEP
INTO THE
MUSEUM
AT NIGHT...

...AND
PULLED
THE OLD
SWITCHEROO,
LEAVING HIS
BOWL IN THE
GARE BOWL'S
PLACE.

UH-
HUH!

IT'S
NOW BEEN
A DECADE
OF DECEIT!

NO
ONE WAS
EVER THE
WISER!



HE
MADE THAT
BOWL FOR
THE TWO
OF US.

HAD A
SENSE OF
HUMOR.

I GUESS
OTOSAN...

THE BOWL
WAS MADE
FOR THEM
BY SOMEONE
THEY LOVED.
RIGHT?

WHY?

I AGREE
WITH YOUR
MOTHERS.

OGAWA
RESIDENCE.

HAVE
YOU EVER
HEARD THE
SAYING
"IT'S THE
THOUGHT
THAT
COUNTS"?

A GIFT'S
TRUE VALUE
ISN'T THE
PRICE TAG,
BUT THE
EMOTIONS AND
CIRCUMSTANCES
SURROUNDING
IT.

THE
GIVER'S
INTENTIONS
DETERMINE
ITS VALUE.

WOMEN
ARE COMPLI-
CATED.

...THE
BOWL IS
PRICELESS
TO YOUR
MOTHERS.

BECALME
THEIR
HUSBAND
MADE IT
FOR
THEM...

UTAKO-SAN...

WELL, DUH.

IF SOME
JERK
STOLE
IT AS A
JOKE...

...I'D CHASE
HIM TO
THE END
OF THE
UNIVERSE
TO GET
IT BACK.

I'D
RATHER
DIE THAN
LOSE A
GIFT
FROM
YOU!

HOW
DID
YOU
KNOW?

IT'S ALMOST
9 O'CLOCK. YOUR
ANNOUNCEMENT
SAID YOU'D STRIKE
AT 10 O'CLOCK,
RIGHT?



THE NEWS
GUY ON TV
SAID 20
FACES HAS
RETURNED
FROM
VACATION
AND IS
UP TO
NO GOOD.

UH...

OH,
HA,
HA
HA!

IT'S MY
PLEASURE.
I WANTED
TO SEE
YOU.

BESIDES,
I DID
ALL THE
ADVANCE
WORK, SO
I'M GOOD
TO GO.

THANK
YOU FOR
COMING TO
SEE ME.
I KNOW
YOU HAVE
WORK
TO DO.

Bla...

I HAD
TO FIND A
PASSAGE-
WAY TO THE
ATTIC.

I
KNEW
IT!

YOU'VE
REALLY
DONE
YOUR
HOMEWORK.

BUT
WASN'T THE
BOWL IN THE
UNDERGROUND
SECTION OF
THE DISPLAY?

WHEN IT
COMES
TO LOVE,
I GIVE IT
MY ALL.

YOU GOT
INSIDE THE
MUSEUM,
DIDN'T YOU?
WAS THERE
A LOT
OF EXTRA
SECURITY
AROUND THE
EXHIBIT?

I'LL BE
WISHING
YOU LUCK
FROM HERE.

I CAN'T
HELP
YOU ON
THE JOB,
BUT...

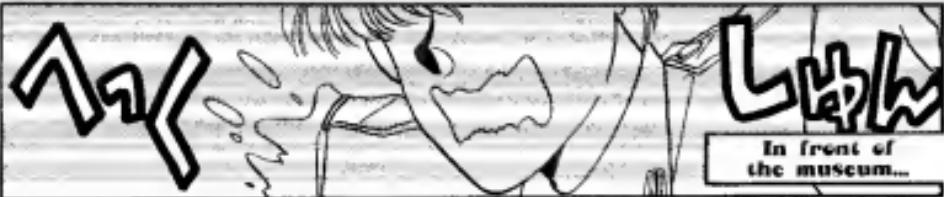


MY 20
FACES IS
INVINCIBLE.

THANK
YOU!



THOSE
STUPID
POLICEMEN
CAN'T
CATCH
HIM!





20 FACES
WONT
ESCAPE
MY GRASP
TONIGHT.

EVEN
SO..!

BEHOLD!

I'VE
MADE
SURE
EVERY
OFFICER
IS ON DUTY
FOR THIS!



THE
PASSAGE
TO THE
UNDER-
GROUND
EXHIBITS!

THE
ENTRANCE
TO THE
MUSEUM!

I'VE GOT A HELICOPTER STANDING BY, IN CASE HE TRIES TO PULL ONE OF HIS FLYING TRICKS.

THE PLACE IS GUARDED FROM THE GROUND

AN AIR LIP!
GETAWAY WILL BE IMPOSSIBLE

YOU AREN'T BEING SARCASTIC... AKECHI-SENSEI...

ARE YOU?

HEAVENS NO!

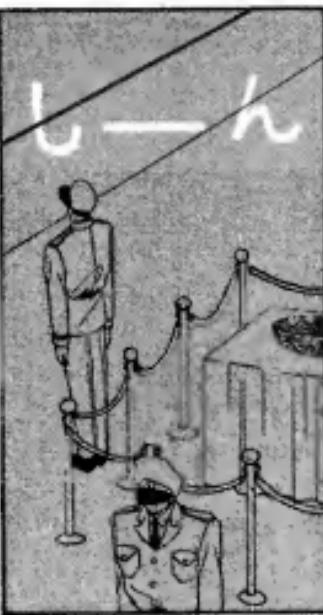
THIS TIME, I CAN'T LOSE!

LIKewise, I'VE BLOCKED THE ONLY PATH TO THE UNDERGROUND EXHIBIT. HEH-HEH!

IT'S ALMOST 10PM.

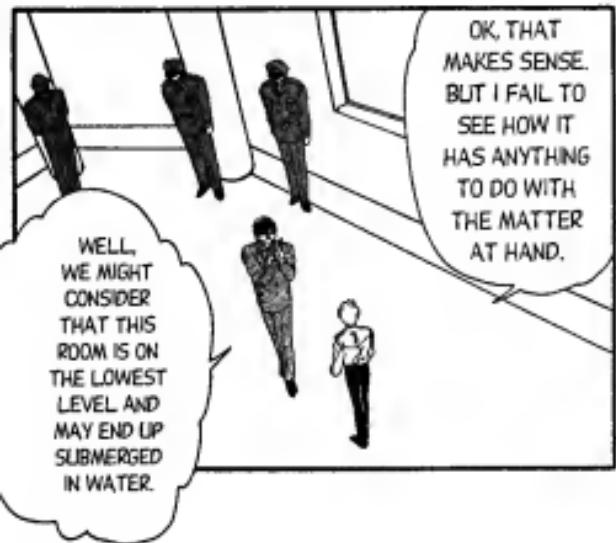
LOOK AT THAT.

WELL-DONE, RYUSUKE-KUN.
REALLY GREAT.









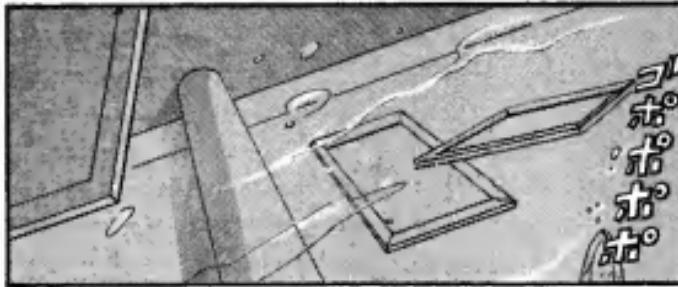
OK, THAT MAKES SENSE. BUT I FAIL TO SEE HOW IT HAS ANYTHING TO DO WITH THE MATTER AT HAND.





ばしゃばしゃばしゃばしゃ

WE
HAVE TO
EVACUATE
NOW!!



AH-HA!

I FOUND
THE
BOWL.



I HOPE
THIS
WILL
MAKE
THEM
HAPPY!

THIS IS
THE BOWL
THAT MY
DAD MADE
FOR BOTH
OF MY
MOTHERS.

THAT
20 FACES!
HE'S SUCH
A SHOWOFF!

IT LOOKS
LIKE THE
WHOLE
PLACE IS
FLOODED!

I'LL
HAVE TO
APOLOGIZE
TO THE
OWNER
LATER.

MAN, I
REALLY
DID A
NUMBER
ON THIS
PLACE.

— — — —



IT'S
20
FACES!

I SEE
SOMEONE
NEAR
THE 2ND
FLOOR
WINDOW!





COME
BACK, YOU
WORTH-
LESS
THIEF!



AMAZING
GETAWAY.
AS USUAL.



MAYBE
YOU NEED
TO GIVE THE
OFFICERS
OXYGEN TANKS,
GOGGLES, AND
SWIMMING
FINS NEXT
TIME.

IT WAS
QUITE A
PLAN FOR
ELUDING
THE
POLICE.

HE
SUBMERGED
THE WHOLE
MUSEUM.

-DON'T
YOU,
AKECHI-
SAN?!

YOU
THINK
THIS IS
FUNNY-

THIS
REMEMBERS
ME OF A
FAVORITE
ALLEGORY...

HOWEVER,
LIONS LOOK
AT THE BIGGER
PICTURE. THEY
DO IT TO TEACH
THEIR CLUBS
DETERMINATION,
SO THEY'LL HAVE
WHAT IT TAKES
TO SURVIVE IN
THE HARSH
WILDERNESS.

SOMETIMES
YOU HAVE
TO STEEL
YOUR HEART,
AND SHOW
“TOUGH LOVE”
TO PEOPLE
THAT YOU
CARE ABOUT.

LIONS
DO MANY
THINGS
THAT WE
MIGHT CON-
SIDER
CRUEL

FOR INSTANCE,
THEY'VE BEEN
KNOWN TO HURL
THEIR NEWBORN
CHILDREN FROM
THE EDGES OF CLIFFS
AND MAKE THEM
CLIMB BACK UP BY
THEMSELVES,
SOMETHING HUMANS
WOULD FIND
REPELLENT.



THAT'S
THE
BOWL,
ALL
RIGHT!

Ijquin
Residence

W
O
W
W
W
!





...ANYTHING
YOUR FATHER
GAVE US.

IT
WOULD
KILL US IF
WE EVER
LOST...



IS A
PRICELESS
TREASURE.

EVERY
GIFT WE
RECEIVED
FROM
HIM...

WHAT A
SPLENDID
IDEA!

LET'S
SERVE
DINNER
WITH HIS
BOWL!



YOU
HAVE THE
PERFECT
NOTIONS!

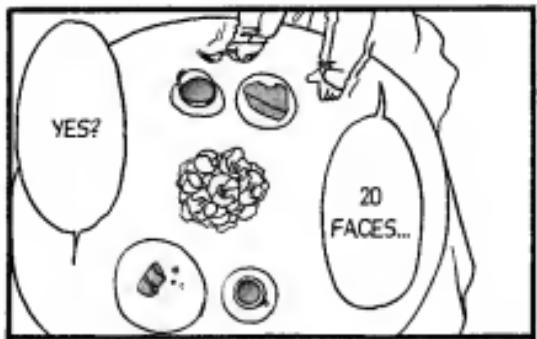
AKIRA,
HOW WOULD
YOU FEEL
ABOUT
CHILLED
NOODLES
TONIGHT?



MOMS...







AKIRA LYUNIN HE WILL MARRY HIS FIRST LOVE, UTAKO OGAWA, WHEN HE'S 22 YEARS OLD. AFTERWARDS, HE WILL GRADUATE FROM THE MEDICAL SCHOOL AT CLAMP SCHOOL'S UNIVERSITY DIVISION AND BECOME A PEDIATRICIAN.

UTAKO OGAWA SHE WILL MARRY HER SECOND LOVE, AKIRA LYUNIN, WAITING TWO YEARS AFTER HE PROPOSES TO HER AND MARRYING HIM AT 18 YEARS OLD. AFTERWARDS, SHE WILL BECOME A KINDERGARTEN TEACHER AT CLAMP SCHOOL.

AKIRA-SAN!
AKIRA-SAN!

AKIRA-
SAN,
COME
HERE!
QUICK!

WHERE
ARE
YOU,
MOMS?!

AKIRA-SAN,
AKIRA-SAN!
HURRY UP!

HA HA

SUBSTITUTE HEAD

HA HA

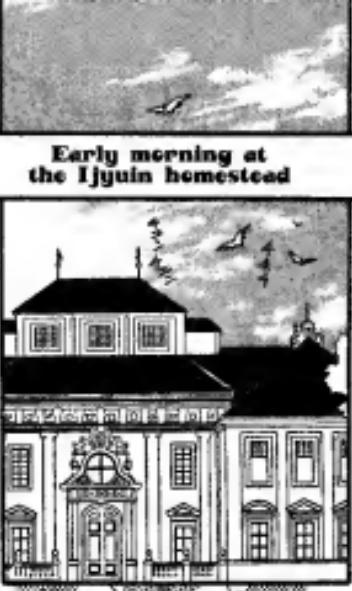
KING
GIDORA!



MOM A AND B: PEOPLE HAVE MENTIONED THAT THEY SEEM TO BE GETTING YOUNGER INSTEAD OF OLDER. WHY AKIRA HAS TWO MOTHERS STILL REMAINS A MYSTERY.

CHRISTMAS STAR
クリスマス・スター

Early morning at
the Ijquin homestead



DON'T
COME IN!!!

BUT
YOU CAN'T
COME IN
HERE. STAY
OUT!

WE'RE
FINE!
I HEARD
SOMETHING
CRASH.
ARE YOU
OKAY?

MOMS!

ARE
YOU
SURE?

YOU'RE
NOT
HURT?

YOU CAN'T
COME IN!!

WOW.

WHEN
YOU'RE
DONE WITH
WHATEVER
YOU'RE
DOING,
PLEASE
JOIN ME.

OKAY,
I'LL GET
BREAKFAST
STARTED.



AKIRA-
SAN
APPEARS
TO BE
GONE.



BREAKFAST...

か
チ
カ
チ
カ
チ



WELL,
I HAVE
A--

SCHOOL
COUNCIL
MEETING
TODAY,
SO...



THANK
YOU!

...I'LL BE
COMING HOME

WE HAVE
TO KEEP
EVERYTHING
A SECRET
UNTIL
TONIGHT.

か
チ
カ
チ
カ
チ

WITHOUT
A DOUBT!

LATE
TONIGHT
...



IT'S BEEN AWHILE, EVERYONE.
MY NAME IS AKIRA IJYUN.



ELEMENTARY CLASS BOARD
MEETING ROOM

TODAY IS THE LAST
DAY OF THE SEMESTER,
SO THE STUDENT COUNCIL
IS HAVING A MEETING.

I AM IN FOURTH GRADE
AT CLAMP SCHOOL.

I HAVE ASSUMED
MY FATHER'S
IDENTITY AS THE
MYSTERIOUS 20 FACES.

THIS IS
NOKORI
INONIYAMA,
SIXTH GRADE.

HE IS THE
CLASS
PRESIDENT.

TODAY IS
DECEMBER
24TH,
ISN'T IT?

THIS IS SUDOH
TAKAMURA,
FIFTH GRADE.

CHAIRMAN

ABOUT
THIS YEAR'S
ANNUAL
CHRISTMAS
PARTY...



LAST YEAR'S WINNER WON A MONTH-LONG WORLD CRUISE, IF I RECALL.

Hmmmm

THE STUDENTS PARTICIPATED IN AN INTERNATIONAL TRIVIA SUPERQUIZ SCAVENGER HUNT.

WE STARTED WITH THE TOKYO DOME.

WHAT SHOULD BE THIS YEAR'S CENTRAL ACTIVITY?

WHAT WAS IT LAST YEAR?

WE HAVE A FANTASTIC PREPARATION COMMITTEE. THEY WOULD ONLY NEED A DAY TO WRAP THINGS UP. IT COULD BE FUN.

A PROPER REWARD FOR SUPERIOR KNOWLEDGE AND LUCK.

flip

AND THE TRIP DIDN'T COUNT AGAINST HIS ATTENDANCE RECORD.

WHAT DOES THE COUNCIL TREASURER...

...THINK THE PARTY'S CENTRAL ACTIVITY SHOULD BE?

WHAT DO YOU THINK, AKIRA?

WHAT? HUH?



SANTA
CLAUS,
CHAIRMAN.

AKIRA,
WHAT
ARE YOU
TALKING
ABOUT?

BESIDES,
HOW WOULD
WE TELL SANTA,
ANYWAY?
HIS ADDRESS
ISN'T EXACTLY
PUBLIC.

REROUTING
ALL THOSE
PRESENTS
WOULD TAKE
TIME.

...SANTA
CLAUS
REALLY
EXISTS...
DO YOU?
THAT'S SO
CUTE!

AKIRA,
YOU CAN'T
POSSIBLY
BELIEVE
THAT...

ONLY
AN IDIOT
DOESN'T
BELIEVE
IN SANTA
CLAUS!

OF
COURSE.

WOULD
YOU MIND
SIGNING
THESE
DOCUMENTS?

HEH. I
DIDN'T
THINK
YOU
STILL
BELIEVED
IN-

I MAYBE
ABSENT-MINDED,
BUT AT LEAST
I KNOW THAT
MUCH.





MA...
MAKO-
ONEESAMA!

W-WHAT
ARE YOU
DOING HERE?

IT'S NOT
LIKE OUR
CLASSES
ARE CLOSE
TO EACH
OTHER.

I DO
ATTEND
FIRST
GRADE AT
CLAMP
SCHOOL.

IT'S A
THIRTY-
MINUTE
WALK
BETWEEN
THEM!

DOESN'T IT
STAND TO
REASON THAT
I MIGHT RUN
INTO MY BABY
SISTER ON
OCCASION?

HA-HA-HA!
TEMPER,
TEMPER,
UTAKO-
CHAN. SO
SUSPICIOUS!

EVEN
IF YOU
HITCHED
A RIDE ON
A SCHOOL
GO-CART...

...IT'D
STILL
TAKE AT
LEAST
TWELVE
MINUTES!

YOU
EXPECT
ME TO
BELIEVE
IT'S A
COINCIDENCE
YOU'RE
HERE?!



I
WANTED
TO TALK TO
YOU ABOUT
THEM,
ACTUALLY.

IT'S
NOT LIKE
YOU TO DO
SOMETHING
FOR NO
REASON.

NOT
LIKE OUR
PARENTS
WOULD.

WHO SAID
I WAS
WORRIED
ABOUT
THAT??!

YOU'RE
SUCH A
WORRYWART!

THEY'RE
NOT
GETTING
DIVORCED.

WHAT
IS IT?

I WANTED
TO PUT OUR
HEADS TOGETHER
TO THINK OF
SOMETHING
GRAND FOR
THEM.

IT'S
ABOUT
THEIR
CHRISTMAS
PRESENTS.

YEAH,
WE SHOULD
FIGURE
THAT
OUT.

OH.

DO YOU
HAVE YOUR
GIFT FOR 20
FACES ALL
PICKED
OUT?









HOW COULD
WE FORGET
YOU WERE
BORN ON
DECEMBER
24TH?

HAPPY
BIRTHDAY,
AKIRA-
SAN!

YOU'RE
TEN
YEARS
OLD!

SURPRISE!

THIS
IS WHAT
YOU WERE
UP TO!

NOW I
UNDERSTAND!

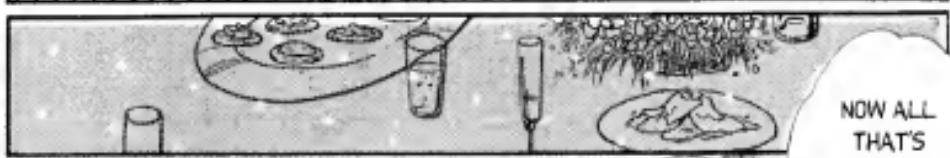
OKAY!

BLOW
OUT THE
CANDLES!

HURRY!

WE BAKED
A CAKE,
TOO, BUT
WERE NOT
SURE IT
TURNED
OUT RIGHT.

WE
DID THE
DECOR-
ATIONS
OUR-
SELVES.





SO I GOT
GLOVES
FOR HIM
THIS YEAR!



I CAN'T
WAIT
TO SEE
WHAT HE'LL
BRING US.



AND I
WAS WORRIED
THAT SANTA
MIGHT GET
COLD...



REALLY?
WHAT
WAS
THAT?



I DOUBT
IT COULD
TOP THE
PRESENT
WE GOT TEN
YEARS AGO...

YOU,
AKIRA-
SAN.

TEN YEARS
AGO, YOU
WERE OUR
CHRISTMAS
PRESENT.

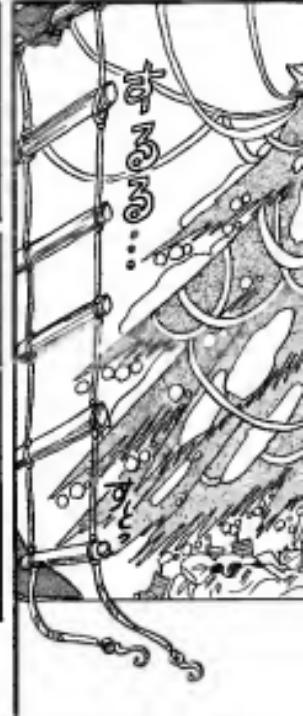
SANTA
COULDN'T
COMPETE.





WE
COULDN'T
EVER HAVE
ASKED FOR
A BETTER
PRESENT
THAN YOU.

OH,
MOMS...







ARE YOU
SURE?

YES, I
BAKED IT
ESPECIALLY
FOR
TONIGHT...

PLEASE,
HAVE
SOME
CAKE.

SO THIS
WAS
LEFT
OVER.

BUT MY
MOTHERS
SURPRISED ME
WITH A CAKE
THEY MADE
FOR ME.

PLEASE,
HAVE
SOME
CAKE.

ARE YOU
SURE?

YES, I
BAKED IT
ESPECIALLY
FOR
TONIGHT...

PLEASE,
HAVE
SOME
CAKE.

SO THIS
WAS
LEFT
OVER.

BUT MY
MOTHERS
SURPRISED ME
WITH A CAKE
THEY MADE
FOR ME.



WELL,
I AM
SANTA
CLAUS.





HE'S SO EASY
TO TALK TO.
THE WAY HE
SMILES, IT'S
LIKE I'VE KNOWN
HIM FOREVER.





SHE SAID
THAT FEELINGS
CHANGE, AND
THAT REMAINING
THE SAME IS
BORING.

...THAT
THERE'S
NO SUCH
THING AS
ETERNAL
LOVE.

BESIDES,
UTAKO-SAN
TOLD ME
RECENTLY...

SHE'LL FIND
SOMEONE MUCH
BETTER THAN ME,
AND THAT WILL
BE THAT.

IT
CAN'T
LAST.



ONE DAY
YOU'RE IN
LOVE WITH
SOMEONE,
AND THE
NEXT YOU'RE
NOT.

SHE'S
RIGHT.
FEELINGS
DO CHANGE.



EVEN A
LITTLE
LOVE IS
MORE
THAN YOU
CAN HOPE
FOR.

BUT THAT
DOESN'T
MEAN YOU
SHOULDN'T
LOVE AT
ALL.

THAT'S
LIFE.

EVEN IF
YOU COULD
PREDICT
THE
FUTURE,
WHY
WOULD
YOU?

THAT
WOULD
MAKE LIFE
PRETTY
BORING.

EMOTIONS
ARE MEANT
TO BE UN-
PREDICTABLE.

THAT'S THE
EXCITING
PART...
THE WAY
FEELINGS
TAKE YOU
OVER.

WHO KNOWS?

MAYBE YOU GUYS WILL ALWAYS BE THIS WAY.

TIME WILL PASS...

...YOU'LL BOTH GROW OLD...

...AND THEN YOU'LL BE ON YOUR WAY TO HEAVEN.

MAYBE YOUR LOVE WILL GET DEEPER.



BUT IF
ALL THE LOVE
YOU SHARED IS
STRONG ENOUGH,
IF IT'S WORTH
HANGING ONTO...

...IT WILL
SUSTAIN
ITSELF
OVER THE
LONG
YEARS.

THAT
MAY JUST
BE WHAT
"FOREVER"
MEANS.

LOOK AT US! WE'RE JUST
A COUPLE OF YOUNGSTERS,
AND HERE WE ARE TRYING TO FIGURE OUT
A CONCEPT LIKE "FOREVER." WE SHOULD
HOLD OFF ON THIS DISCUSSION
UNTIL WE'RE AT LEAST 80.

HO
HO
HO

YEAH!

AKIRA-
KUN...
TODAY
IS YOUR
BIRTH-
DAY.

YOU
SHOULD
ENJOY IT.

NOW I
KNOW
WHO
YOU
REMIND
ME OF!

AKECHI-
SENSEI, MY
TEACHER!

holy night
Silent night...













AKIRA-KUN,
YOU'VE GROWN
SO FAST. YOU'VE
BECOME QUITE
THE LITTLE MAN
IN MY ABSENCE.

HAPPY
BIRTHDAY...

...AND
GOOD
NIGHT.

MY
ONLY
BELOVED
SON.





THE
WEDDING'S ABOUT
TO START.
WHERE COULD
20 FACES BE?



THERE YOU ARE!
HURRY, HURRY!



LET'S GO!
I DON'T
WANT TO
BE LATE.

LITAKO-
SAN,
WHERE
HAVE YOU
BEEN?



SHIGETOSHI IJYUIN:
AKIRA'S FATHER. HIS MOTHER'S
HUSBAND. NOBODY KNOWS WHY HE
DOESN'T LIVE WITH HIS FAMILY,
SINCE HE'S STILL ALIVE.



FLOWER

LIKE OR DISLIKE
すき・きらい

Ogawa residence



I THINK
YOU'LL BE
FANTASTIC.

THANK
YOU!

I KNOW
YOU'D MAKE
THE WORLD'S
PRETTIEST
BRIDE.

NATUR-
ALLY!

Ah

ha
ha
ha
ha

OF
COURSE!

YOU'D
BETTER
INVITE ME
TO THE
CEREMONY,
SO I CAN
SEE.

I KNOW
HAVING A
PERFECT
MARRIAGE
AND BEING
THE
PERFECT
WIFE
ISN'T
EASY.

IT'S NOT
SOMETHING
YOU'RE BORN
WITH, BUT IF I
WORK REALLY
HARD, I CAN
MAKE IT
HAPPEN.

Huh



The Ijyuin home



ON AUGUST 24TH, MS. UTAKO OGAWA, THE YOUNGEST DAUGHTER OF THE OGAWA FORTUNE, WILL BE CELEBRATING HER BIRTHDAY AT HER FAMILY'S ESTATE.

NOW, ON TO OUR NEXT STORY...

hmmmm hmmmm

WHY DID UTAKO-SAN LOSE HER TEMPER LIKE THAT...?

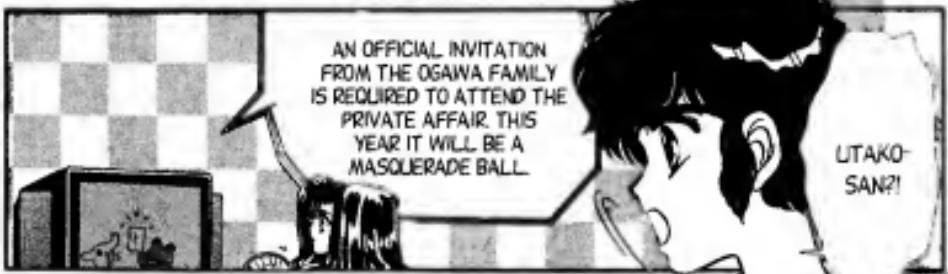


SHE WAS HAPPY AND TALKATIVE, AND THEN WHAMMO! A SHE-DEMON!

Having fun

AN OFFICIAL INVITATION FROM THE OGAWA FAMILY IS REQUIRED TO ATTEND THE PRIVATE AFFAIR. THIS YEAR IT WILL BE A MASQUERADE BALL.

UTAKO-SAN!?



UTAKO-SAN...

AS THE OGAWAS
ARE ONE OF THE
WEALTHIEST
FAMILIES IN
THE WORLD...

...THIS
MASQUERADE
IS SURE
TO BE AN
ELABORATE
PRODUCTION.

WOWWW!

WE WANT AN INVITATION!!!



20 FACES IS
A WIENIE!



TELL ME
WHAT'S
WRONG,
UTAKO-SAN.
MAYBE I
CAN HELP.

heh heh heh...

SPILL!



IF A MAN SAID TO A WOMAN, "WHEN YOU GET MARRIED, I'LL THETICALLY...
BRING YOU A GIFT..."

HYPOTHETICALLY...



SOB!

OH, DEAR.

H-HE
SAID
YOU'D
BETTER
INVITE
ME TO
THE
CEREMONY.

AND
THAT
MEANS...?

AND E
SLIDES
INTO
BREAK-
UP!

HE'S
HIT A
HOME
RUN, IS
ROUNDED
THIRD...

THAT
BEAST!!

...20 FACES WAS JUST
MESSING WITH YOUR
HEART.

THAT'S
RIGHT.

HE
HAS NO
INTENTION
OF
MARRYING
YOU.
FEARED.



IS IT A GIRL?

A CERTAIN PERSON DOESN'T LIKE ME ANYMORE.

WHAAAAT!

HUH?

SHE WAS TELLING ME ALL ABOUT HER DREAMS FOR THE FUTURE

ONE OF THOSE DREAMS WAS TO HAVE A NICE FAMILY AND BE THE PERFECT WIFE.

SO IT IS A GIRL...

WHY DOESN'T SHE LIKE YOU ANYMORE?

I THOUGHT
SHE
WOULD
MAKE A
BEAUTIFUL
BRIDE.

THERE'S
NO ONE
LOVELIER.

I THOUGHT
SO, TOO.
SHE'S A
LOVELY
PERSON.

A NOBLE
GOAL.

I
HONESTLY
DID.

SO...



I SAID,
"YOU'D
BETTER
INVITE ME
TO THE
CEREMONY."



YOU
DIDN'T...
DID YOU?



UH...
YEAH.



AKIRA-
KUN, YOU
MESSED
UP.

BIG
TIME.

WHAT
DID I DO
WRONG?





Y-YES.

THEN YOU
HAVE TO
TELL HER,
OR SHE'LL
NEVER KNOW.

AKIRA,
YOU
REALLY
CARE
FOR
HER,
DON'T
YOU?

EXPRESS
HOW...

I DON'T
WANT
TO BE A
BOTHER...

YOU ARE
PROBABLY
BOthering
HER MORE
BY KEEPING
YOUR
FEELINGS
SECRET.

...I F-Feel?

THERE ARE THINGS THAT YOU FEEL YOU DON'T HAVE TO SAY...

...BUT IT'S IMPORTANT TO EXPRESS SOME FEELINGS WITH WORDS, TO LET SOMEONE KNOW YOU CARE.

NOT EVEN THE SMARTEST PERSON CAN READ ANOTHER'S HEART.

NO ONE CAN.

THAT'S WHY WE HAVE WORDS LIKE "LOVE," SO WE CAN SHARE OUR DESIRES WITH EACH OTHER.

IF YOU REALLY WANT TO BE CONSIDERATE OF HER FEELINGS, THEN YOU NEED TO SWALLOW YOUR FEAR AND BE HONEST WITH HER.

SHE'LL NEVER UNDERSTAND YOU IF YOU KEEP IT ALL BOTTLED UP.

ONEESAMA?

IT'S
FRIDAY
NIGHT,
BUT NO
SIGN OF
20
FACES...

20
FACES
DIDN'T
SHOW
UP, DID
HE?



... BECAUSE
YOU
THOUGHT
HE LIKED
YOU, WERE
YOU?

YOU
WEREN'T
JUST
SPENDING
TIME WITH
HIM, WERE
YOU...

AND
YOU
STILL
LIKE
HIM,
SO IT
HURTS.



NO.

YOU CAN KEEP
LOVING HIM JUST
LIKE BEFORE.
YOUR EMOTIONS
WERE PURE, EVEN
IF HIS WEREN'T.

GOOD.
YOU
SHOULDN'T
BE
CONCERNED,
THEN.

YOU'RE
NOT GOING
TO SAY
DUMB
STUFF
LIKE...

...OUR
LOVE HAS
TO BE
MUTUAL,"
ARE YOU?

ONEESAMA...



ROMANCE
ALWAYS
ENDS UP
BEING A
ONE-WAY
STREET.

THAT'S
WHY
ROMANCE
IS SUCH
A THRILL.

YOU AND 20
FACES ARE
STRANGERS
PLAYING AT
SOMETHING
MORE.

BOTH OF YOU MIGHT
VERY WELL LOVE
EACH OTHER, BUT
YOU'LL EXPRESS
THAT LOVE IN
DIFFERENT WAYS,
BECAUSE YOUR
EMOTIONS
ARE BORN FROM
SEPARATE HEARTS.

YOU MIGHT
FEEL LIKE YOU
UNDERSTAND
EACH OTHER,
BUT IT'S ONLY
AN ILLUSION.



MAYBE HE'LL
EVENTUALLY
LOVE YOU
MORE THAN
YOU LOVE HIM.
YOU NEVER
KNOW.



EVEN IF HE
DOESN'T WANT
TO MARRY YOU
NOW, THAT
DOESN'T MEAN
HE'LL ALWAYS
FEEL THAT WAY.
SOMETIMES
GUYS HAVE TO
GET USED TO
THE IDEA.



UNTIL NOW,
HE CAME BY
EVERY
FRIDAY
NIGHT, AND
THAT SAYS
SOMETHING.



IT'S NO
GOOD.

NO.



IT'S
ABOUT
DETER-
MINATION
AND
EFFORT!

OH,
UTAKO-SAN...

HE'S NOT
GOING TO
COME
ANYMORE.

WHY
NOT?

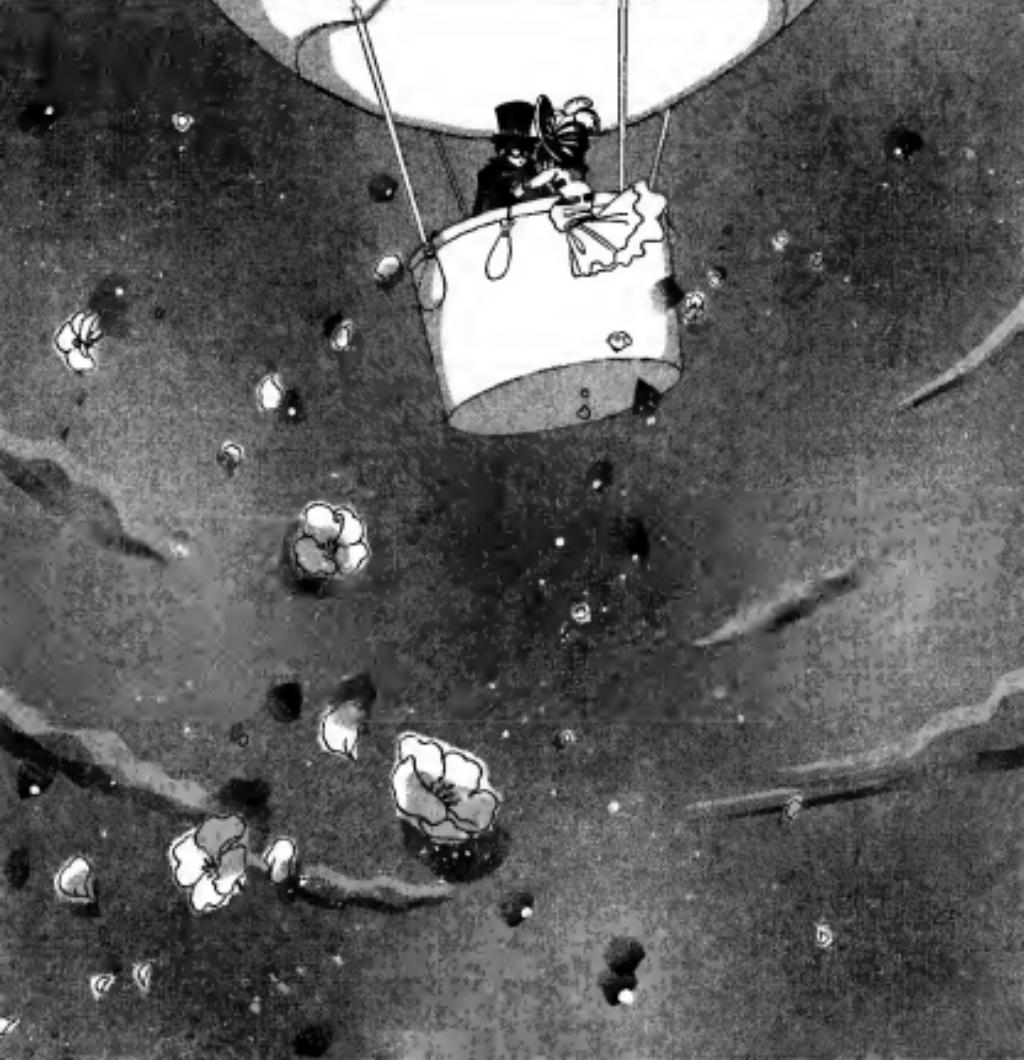
...THAT I
HATED
HIM.

20 FACES
PROBABLY
NEVER
WANTS TO
SEE ME
AGAIN.

I TOLD
HIM...









LET'S GET ONE OURSELVES NEXT TIME!

WOW, A HOT AIR BALLOON!

YET ANOTHER GREAT IDEA!

IF HE WAS PLANNING ON COMING, WHY DIDN'T HE RSVP?!

HE PROBABLY HAD A LOT TO TAKE CARE OF.
HE WAS RATHER WORRIED.

...IF YOU INTERFERE WITH LOVE, IT'LL KICK YOU LIKE A HORSE KICKING A BRATTY COWHAND, AND YOU'LL GO STRAIGHT TO HELL.

I TOLD YOU BEFORE...

HAVE SOME FOOD AND ENJOY YOURSELF FOR ONE EVENING.

SETTLE DOWN, RYUSUKE-KUN. WE'RE AT A PARTY!

WAIT...
WHAT ARE MY NEIGHBORS DOING HERE?

BUT 20 FACES...







I
LOVE
YOU.



I KNOW YOU
HATE ME,
AND
I GUESS
MAYBE YOU
SHOULD...

YOU WERE SO
ANGRY WITH
ME LAST
TIME WE
WERE
TOGETHER.

I'M SORRY.
I KNOW I'M
BEING A
PEST, BUT
I HAD TO
TELL YOU.

...BUT
SOMEONE
TAUGHT ME
THAT IT'S
BETTER TO TELL
SOMEONE YOUR
FEELINGS THAN
HAVE THEM
NEVER KNOW
YOU CARE.



I LOVED
YOU, TOO,
SINCE THE
MOMENT
WE MET!

UTAKO-SAN...

WHY
DIDN'T
YOU
TELL
ME
SOONER?!

EVEN IF
YOU DIDN'T
RETURN MY
FEELINGS.

I
LOVED
YOU.

NOW
THAT I
KNOW
YOU
LOVE
ME
TOO...

I LOVE
YOU
EVEN
MORE.

UTAKO-SAN...

I GUESS
CERTAIN
FEELINGS
HAVE TO BE
STATED
TO BE
REALIZED.

SAY
WHAT?

HOW
COULD
YOU NOT
HAVE
SEEN
IT?

I
SWEAR,
I HAD
NO
IDEA!



THOSE
THREE
WORDS
ARE...

...THE BEST
BIRTHDAY
PRESENT
I'VE EVER
RECEIVED.

END



THE WILD DUCK PAIRED WELL WITH THE SALUCE. VERY REFRESHING. THE SALAD WAS CRISP. THE DRESSING WAS GOOD, ALTHOUGH IT COULD HAVE USED JUST A BIT MORE ACIDITY.

He's now
a total
gourmet

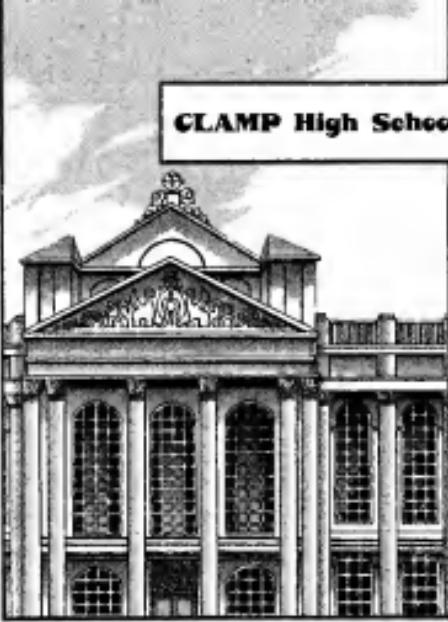
YES,
YES.



RYUSUKE KOBAYASHI: IT'S STILL UNCLEAR AS TO HOW HE HAS THE POWER TO BOSS POLICE OFFICERS AROUND. IN THE FUTURE, THOUGH, HE'LL BECOME A REAL POLICE DETECTIVE.

AKECHI-SENSEI: IN THE FUTURE, HE WILL STILL BE THE SCHOOL DOCTOR.

CLAMP High School



CLAMP School Sophomore,
Utako Ogawa

PROPOSAL
プロポーズ





IT'LL
BE
DONE
IN A
MINUTE!

IS
BREAKFAST
READY
YET?

AKIRA-
SAN!

Ijyuin
Residence.

TAKE
A SEAT,
OKASAN!

CLAMP School University
Medical Student, Second Year,
Akira Ijyuin. 20 years old.

IT'S
NOT
LIKE
WE
HAVE
JOBS.

DON'T WORRY
ABOUT IT.
YOU'RE BUSY
WITH SCHOOL,
AND YOU
ALWAYS WORK
SO LATE.

THANKS FOR
WAITING.

EVEN SO,
AKIRA-SAN, WHY
ARE YOU WORKING?
IT'S NOT LIKE
YOU NEED TO.

WE'RE GLAD
YOU SLEPT
IN A LITTLE.

Oh...

I WANT TO
GET SOMEONE
A PRESENT
WITH MONEY I
ACTUALLY
EARNED.

THAT'S
WHY...





RYUSUKE-SAN! GOOD MORNING.



HEADING DOWN TO THE STATION?

TIME FLIES SO FAST.

YOU USED TO BE THIS SCRAPPY KID, AND NOW YOU'RE IN COLLEGE.

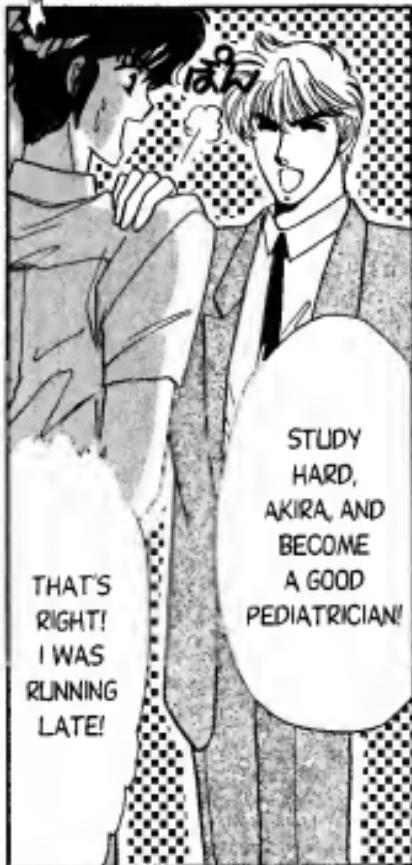


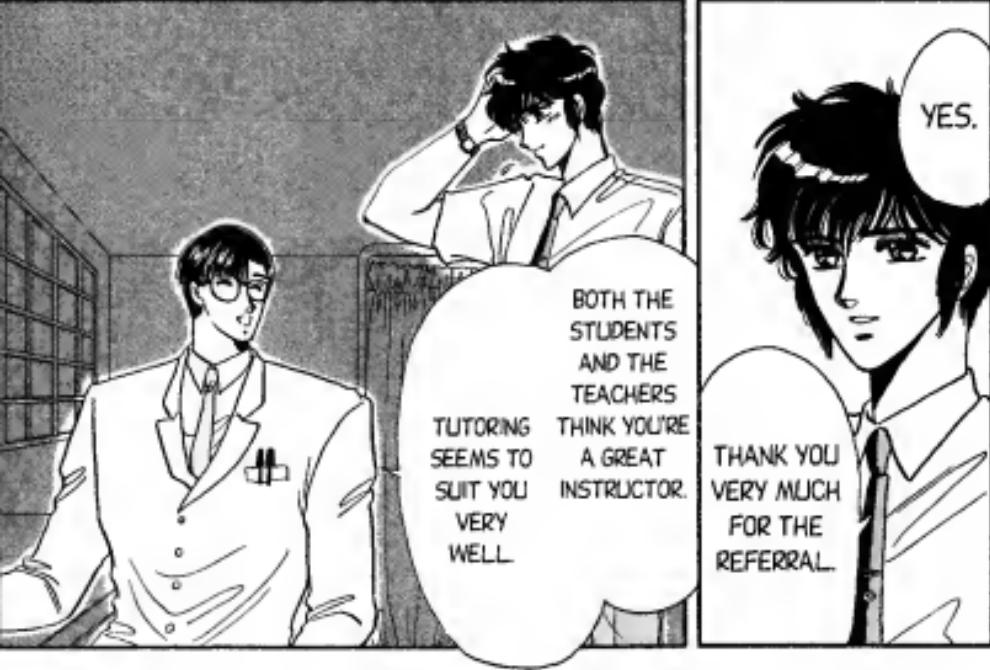
ABOUT THIS BIG.



OFF TO SCHOOL?

Oh!!

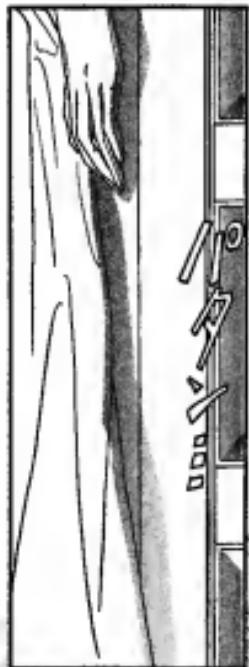






Ogawa Estate











IT TOOK ME A WHILE TO HAVE THE COURAGE TO GET THIS, BUT I DECIDED IT WAS THE RIGHT TIME. I WANT YOU TO HAVE IT BEFORE I CHICKEN OUT.

WELL, I DID BRING YOU A PRESENT. SHOULD I GIVE IT TO YOU?



...AND IT WAS SOMETHING ONLY YOU COULD GIVE ME.



IF YOU DONT LIKE IT, THEN JUST THROW IT AWAY OR SOMETHING.

WHAT IS IT?



WHAT IS IT?

I WOULDNT THROW AWAY A GIFT FROM YOU EVEN IF THE WORLD STOPPED TURNING!

I KNOW THAT
WE'RE STILL
YOUNG AND
ALL, BUT...

TODAY'S
YOUR
SWEET
SIXTEEN.

WELL
UH...
UM...

PRESENT



ARE YOU
PROPOSING
TO ME?
IS THAT
IT?

Y-
Y-
YES!







I WOULD
NEVER LET
ANYBODY
ELSE HAVE
YOU.

NOT A
CHANCE.



I WAS
WORRIED
YOU'D
THROW
THE RING
IN MY
FACE.



WITH
THOSE
MAGIC
WORDS,
WE'RE
INVINCIBLE.

I
LOVE
YOU.

I'LL
PROBABLY
BE THE
HAPPIEST
BRIDE IN
HISTORY.

THEN I'LL
BE THE
HAPPIEST
GROOM...
AND
TOGETHER
WE'LL
BE THE
HAPPIEST
NEWLY-
WEDS.



UTAKO-SAN...

I'M
FINALLY
GOING
TO BE
YOUR WIFE,
AKIRA-
SAN.

YES.

BEFORE
I SWEAR
TO GOD...

I'LL
SWEAR
TO YOU.

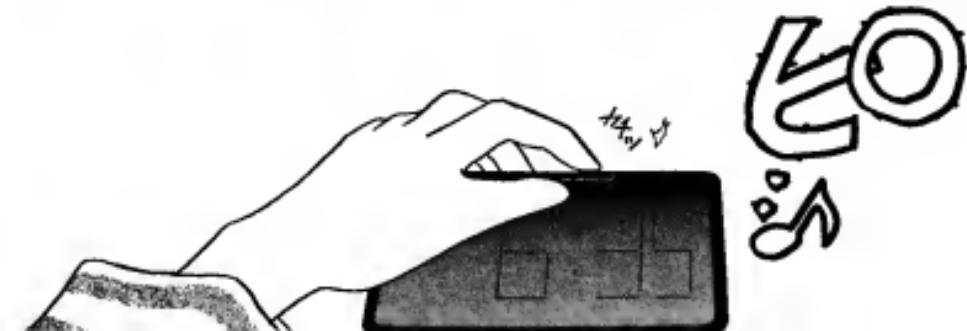
I LOVE YOU
MORE THAN
ANYONE
ELSE IN THE
UNIVERSE.

END



Ijyuin Residence,
Morning











I'VE
TRAINED
FOR
THIRTEEN
YEARS TO
BE A GOOD
WIFE.

I THINK I'M
FINALLY
BECOMING
AVERAGE.

YOUR
COOKING
IS MUCH
BETTER
THAN MINE,
BY FAR.

I CAN'T
EAT MY
OWN
BLAND
FOOD
ANYMORE.

BUT
YOU'RE
STILL
SUPERIOR
AT ALL
OF THEM,
AKIRA-
SAN.

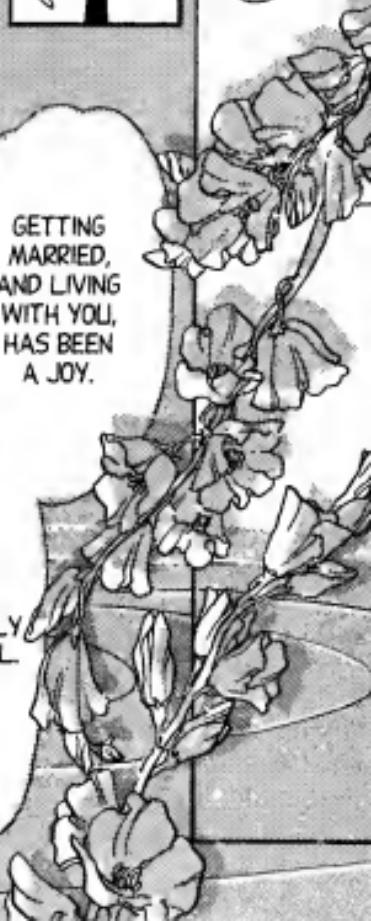
COOKING,
CLEANING,
SEWING,
LAUNDRY...

THAT
MAKES ME
LOOK LIKE
A BAD
WIFE.

...YOU DO
ALL OF
THEM
WELL,
UTAKO-
SAN.

I LOVE
YOU VERY
MUCH.





I WISH
I COULD
HELP YOU
UNDERSTAND
EVEN A
FRACTION
OF HOW
I FEEL.

LOVING YOU,
AND HAVING
YOU SMILE
AT ME LIKE
THAT, IT
MAKES MY
EMOTIONS
GROW SO
STRONG.

IT MAKES
ME WANT
TO MAKE
YOU AS
HAPPY AS
I AM.

YOU TELL
ME ALL
THE TIME.

WORDS
AREN'T
ENOUGH.

I JUST HOPE TO
GIVE BACK A SMALL
PERCENTAGE OF THE
BLISS YOU GIVE TO ME.

I KNOW THAT I
CAN'T EXPRESS
100% OF WHAT
I FEEL TO YOU.

HUH?

EVERY
MORNING,
YOU SERVE
THE BEST
BREAKFAST
IN TOWN.

I WANT
TO COOK
YOU A
DELICIOUS
MEAL
BECAUSE I
LOVE YOU...

THE MOST
PRECIOUS
PERSON
IN MY LIFE
MAKES ME
BREAKFAST
EVERY DAY.

BUT MY
COOKING
WILL
NEVER
COMPARE
TO YOURS.

HOW COULD
ANYONE
ELSE'S
BREAKFAST
TOP THAT?

FUZZY LOGIC,
AT BEST...

THAT'S A
STRETCH.

EVERY PERSON
HAS THEIR
OWN IDEA OF
PERFECTION,
BASED ON
WHAT THEY
GET OUT
OF AN
EXPERIENCE.

I REFUSE
TO BACK DOWN
WHEN IT COMES
TO YOU.

I CAN
NEVER
WIN.

EVEN IF
YOU TELL
ME I'M
WRONG,
I THINK
YOU MAKE
THE BEST
BREAKFAST...

I ALWAYS
THINK THAT I LOVE
YOU MORE THAN YOU
LOVE ME, BUT THEN
YOU COME ALONG
AND SAY SOMETHING
LIKE THAT...

WHAT
DO YOU
MEAN?

...AND
AS
USUAL,
YOU
PROVE
ME
WRONG.

...BECAUSE
YOU MADE
IT FOR ME.

OF COURSE
I LOVE YOU
MORE!

WAS
THERE
EVER A
QUESTION?

THIS IS
MORTIFYING.

I WANT
US TO
STRIVE
FOR EACH
OTHER'S
LOVE FOR
THE REST
OF OUR
LIVES.

I
WANT IT
TO LAST
FOREVER.

I SUPPOSE
THERE ARE
WORSE
THINGS
WE COULD
ARGUE
ABOUT.









THIS MYSTERIOUS FIRST GRADER WILL GET MARRIED WHEN SHE'S TWENTY-TWO. HER HUSBAND WILL BE A FIRST GRADE TEACHER AT CLAMP SCHOOL—WHO JUST HAPPENED TO BE HER TEACHER WHEN SHE WAS THAT AGE.